

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 remain in the application, with claim 1 being independent.

Claims 3-12 were indicated as allowable. Dependent claim 3 recited a valve plate slidable along a rail. Applicant has taken the Examiner's lead and has amended Claim 1 to include a valve plate being slidable rectilinearly and transversely along the frame relative to the inlet. None of the references include this feature.

Holtzclaw '203, col. 4, lines 29 - 34, teaches a first valve plate 57 secured to a rod which pivots to move the valve plate between open and closed positions. Holtzclaw, col. 4, lines 64 - 75, also discloses a second valve plate 55 disposed on a guidepost 66 and movable flat against the air pressure between open and closed positions.

Moving the valve plate rectilinearly and transversely to the inlet requires significantly less power than moving the valve plate pivotably or flat against the air pressure. Consequently, less maintenance is required than for systems wherein the valve plate pivots or moves flat against the air pressure.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that pending Claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 433-7385.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 04-1061, under Order No. 656200-55, in the name of DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

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